

What we claim is:

1. A valve for controlling flow of fluid, the valve comprising: a housing defining a first bore and a second bore; and a valve member, said valve member having a sealing surface and being slidable in alignment with said first bore from a first position where the sealing surface is on a side of said aperture remote from said first bore such as to allow fluid flow between said first and second bores to a second position on an opposite side of said aperture to block flow of fluid between said first and second bores.
2. A valve according to Claim 1 including a spring, wherein said spring is arranged to urge said valve member to said second position.
3. A valve according to Claim 2, wherein said spring is helical.
4. A valve according to Claim 1, wherein said housing defines a tapered sealing formation, and wherein said valve member is arranged to engage said sealing formation in said second position.
5. A valve according to Claim 1, wherein said valve member includes a rod-shape member, wherein said rod-shape member supports a cylindrical sleeve of resilient material, and wherein said cylindrical sleeve provides said sealing surface.

6. A valve according to Claim 5, wherein said cylindrical sleeve has an outwardly-projecting annular flange arranged to make a wiping seal with a bore in said housing.
7. A valve according to Claim 1, wherein said second bore is inclined at an angle relative to said first bore.
8. A valve according to Claim 7, wherein said angle is substantially 45° .
9. A valve according to Claim 1, wherein said housing has a channel extending along an outer surface, and wherein said valve member includes a plate member arranged for manual engagement and slidably located in said channel.
10. A valve according to Claim 9, wherein said housing includes two walls, and wherein said channel extends between said two walls so that said plate member is protected by said walls.
11. A valve according to Claim 10, wherein said walls have an upper surface that is curved such that the height of said walls varies along the length of the valve.
12. A valve according to Claim 1 including a locking member operable to prevent movement of said valve member.
13. A valve according to Claim 12, wherein said locking member is rotatable.

14. A valve according to Claim 13, wherein said locking member is a rotatable cap located at one end of said valve.
15. A valve according to Claim 12, wherein said locking member includes a projection movable into and out of alignment with said valve member so as to prevent or enable movement of said valve member.
16. A valve according to Claim 15, wherein said housing has two walls extending longitudinally, and wherein said locking member includes two projections that form a continuation of said two walls when said locking member is in a position to enable movement of said valve member.
17. A valve according to Claim 12, wherein said housing has a sealing formation, and wherein said locking member is arranged to displace said valve member by a short distance towards said sealing formation when said locking member is moved to its locking position, such as to enhance the seal with said sealing formation.
18. A valve according to Claim 1, wherein said housing is of a transparent material.
19. A suction catheter assembly comprising a suction catheter and a valve for controlling flow of fluid along said suction catheter, said valve comprising: a housing defining a first bore and a second bore; a valve member, said valve member having a seal and being slidable in alignment with said first bore from a first position where the seal is on a side of said aperture remote from said first bore such as to allow fluid flow

between said first and second bores to a second position on an opposite side of said aperture to block flow of fluid between said first and second bores.

20. A suction catheter assembly of the kind comprising: a suction catheter; a suction control valve towards the rear end of the assembly by which suction applied to said catheter can be controlled; a patient end manifold by which said assembly is connected with a tracheal tube; and a flexible envelope extending between said manifold and said control valve around said catheter, wherein said suction control valve has a user-actuable member for controlling opening and closing of said valve, and wherein said user-actuable member is movable substantially axially of the catheter from a forward, closed position to a rear, open position.
21. A suction control valve comprising: a housing defining a first bore and a second bore opening into the first bore via an aperture, said second bore being adapted to be connected to a source of suction; a valve member slidable within said housing in alignment with said first bore; a spring operable to urge said valve member forwardly to a position where flow through said aperture is prevented; a manually engageable member coupled with said valve member to enable said valve member to be slid rearwardly against the action of said spring to allow material to flow from said first bore to said second bore.
22. A suction control valve according to Claim 21 including a locking member that is displaceable from a first position in which it enables rearward movement of said valve

member to a second position in which it prevents rearward movement of said valve member.